



# Guidelines for Healthcare Providers



## STAY ALERT FOR MIDDLE EAST RESPIRATORY SYNDROME (MERS-CoV)

Testing for suspect MERS infections must meet the following case definition:

**SEVERE ACUTE RESPIRATORY  
INFECTIONS**



**RECENT TRAVEL FROM  
THE ARABIAN PENINSULA**

✓ Fever **AND** pneumonia or acute respiratory distress syndrome; **AND ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:**

- A history of travel from countries in or near the Arabian Peninsula<sup>1</sup> within 14 days before symptom onset, OR
- Close contact with a symptomatic traveler who developed fever and acute respiratory illness (not necessarily pneumonia) within 14 days after traveling from countries in or near the Arabian Peninsula<sup>1</sup> OR
- A member of a cluster of patients with severe acute respiratory illness (e.g. fever and pneumonia requiring hospitalization) of unknown etiology in which MERS-CoV is being evaluated, in consultation with state and local health departments.



**ONLY** for those who have been **INSIDE** a healthcare facility in Jordan, Saudi Arabia, or UAE:

✓ Fever **AND** symptoms of respiratory illness (not necessarily pneumonia; e.g. cough, shortness of breath) **AND** being in a healthcare facility (as a patient, worker, or visitor) within 14 days before symptom onset in a country or territory in or near the Arabian Peninsula in which recent healthcare-associated cases of MERS have been identified<sup>2</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> Countries considered in the Arabian Peninsula and neighboring include: Bahrain; Iraq; Iran; Israel, the West Bank, and Gaza; Jordan; Kuwait; Lebanon; Oman; Qatar; Saudi Arabia; Syria; the United Arab Emirates (UAE); and Yemen

<sup>2</sup> As of June 1, 2014, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, UAE; this may change as more information becomes available.

***Testing for flu and other respiratory pathogens should be done concurrently.***

Take infection control precautions when evaluating patients who meet the above criteria:

- Place surgical mask on patient immediately
- Place patient in Airborne Infection Isolation Room (AIIR)
- Implement standard, contact, and airborne infection control precautions
- Limit personnel entering patient room
- Notify infection preventionists on call
- Exposed healthcare workers should wear Personal Protective Equipment (PPE):
  - N95 or higher respirators
  - Goggles or face shields (for high risk procedures such as intubation, etc.)
  - Gown and gloves

***For questions or to report suspected cases of MERS contact the  
Acute Communicable Disease Control Program 213-240-7941, After hours 213-974-1234***